

§ 256.37

30 CFR Ch. II (7–1–05 Edition)

§ 256.37 Lease term.

(a)(1) All oil and gas leases shall be issued for an initial period of 5 years, or not to exceed 10 years where the authorized officer finds that such longer period is necessary to encourage exploration and development in areas because of unusually deep water or other unusually adverse conditions.

(2) If your oil and gas lease is in water depths between 400 and 800 meters, it will have an initial lease term of 8 years unless MMS establishes a different lease term under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.

(3) For leases issued with an initial term of 8 years, you must begin an exploratory well within the first 5 years of the term to avoid lease cancellation.

(b) An oil and gas lease shall continue after such initial period for as long as oil or gas is produced from the lease in paying quantities, or drilling or well reworking operations as approved by the Secretary are conducted. The term of an oil and gas lease is subject to further extension as provided in § 256.73 of this part.

(c) Sulphur leases shall be issued for a term not to exceed 10 years and so long thereafter as sulphur is produced from the leasehold in paying quantities, or drilling, well reworking, plant construction, or other operations for the production of sulphur, as approved by the Secretary, are conducted thereon.

[44 FR 38276, June 29, 1979. Redesignated at 47 FR 47006, Oct. 22, 1982 and amended at 50 FR 49043, Nov. 29, 1985; 54 FR 2049, Jan. 18, 1989; 61 FR 55889, Oct. 30, 1996]

§ 256.38 Joint bidding provisions.

§ 256.40 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to §§ 256.38 through 256.44 of this part.

(a) *Single bid* means a bid submitted by one person for an oil and gas lease under section 8(a) of the Act.

(b) *Joint bid* means a bid submitted by two or more persons for an oil and gas lease under section 8(a) of the Act.

(c) *Average daily production* is the total of all production in an applicable production period which is chargeable under § 256.43 of this title divided by the exact number of calendar days in the applicable production period.

(d) *Barrel* means 42 U.S. gallons.

(e) *Crude oil* means a mixture of liquid hydrocarbons including condensate that exists in natural underground reservoirs and remains liquid at atmospheric pressure after passing through surface separating facilities, but does not include liquid hydrocarbons produced from tar sand, gilsonite, oil shale, or coal.

(f) *An economic interest* means any right to, or any right dependent upon, production of crude oil, natural gas, or liquefied petroleum products and shall include, but not be limited to, a royalty interest, or overriding royalty interest, whether payable in cash or in kind, a working interest, a net profits interest, a production payment, or a carried interest.

(g) *Liquefied petroleum products* means natural gas liquid products including the following: ethane, propane, butane, pentane, natural gasoline, and other natural gas products recovered by a process of absorption, adsorption, compression, or refrigeration cycling, or a combination of such processes.

(h) *Natural gas* means a mixture of hydrocarbons and varying quantities of nonhydrocarbons that exist in the gaseous phase.

(i) *Oil and gas lease* means an oil and gas lease either offered or issued pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

(j) *Owned* means:

(1) *With respect to crude oil*— having either an economic interest in or a power of disposition over the production of crude oil;

(2) *With respect to natural gas*— having either an economic interest in or a power of disposition over the production of natural gas; and

(3) *With respect to liquefied petroleum products*— having either an economic interest in or a power of disposition over any liquefied petroleum product at the time of completion of the liquefaction process.

(k) *Prior production period* means the continuous six month period of January 1 through June 30 preceding November 1 through April 30 for joint bids submitted during the six month bidding period from November 1 through April 30, and means the continuous six month period of July 1 through December 31 preceding May 1 through October